2020 Big Ten Football Championship Game

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The **2020 Big Ten Football Championship Game** was a college football game played on December 19, 2020 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. The tenth annual Big Ten Football Championship Game, it determined the 2020 champion of the Big Ten Conference. The game was played between the No. 4 Ohio State Buckeyes out of the East division, and the No. 14 Northwestern Wildcats out of the West division. Sponsored by credit card company Discover, the game was officially known as the **Big Ten Championship Game presented by Discover**.

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History [edit source]

The 2020 Championship Game was the tenth in the Big Ten's 125-year history and the seventh to feature the conference's East and West alignment. East division champion Ohio State won the 2019 game over West division champion Wisconsin by a score of 34–21.[3]

Teams [edit source]

Ohio State and Northwestern faced each other in the Big Ten Championship Game for the second time. Ohio State won the first championship game between the two schools, in 2018.

Northwestern [edit source]

Main article: 2020 Northwestern Wildcats football team

Northwestern booked their place in the Championship Game by winning the West Division with a record of 6–1 (6–1 Big Ten). The Wildcats are making their second appearance in the Championship Game, with the only previous appearance coming in 2018 against Ohio State. The Wildcats are ranked 14th in the College Football Playoff rankings heading into the game.

Ohio State [edit source]

See also: 2020 Ohio State Buckeyes football team

Ohio State secured their place in the Championship Game by winning the East Division with an undefeated 5–0 (5–0 Big Ten) regular season record. This will be Ohio State's sixth appearance in the Championship Game, and fourth consecutive. They are the three-time reigning conference champions. The Buckeyes are ranked fourth in the College Football Playoff rankings heading into the game.

Originally, Ohio State would not have qualified to play in the championship game due to the Big Ten's six-game minimum rule that was adopted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that rule was eliminated shortly after Ohio State's final game, against Michigan, was canceled.[4] This allowed the Buckeyes to advance to the Championship game at 5–0 over Big Ten East runners-up Indiana, who finished 6–1.

2020 Big Ten Football Championship Game

Conference Championship

Northwestern Wildcats (6–1)	Ohio State Buckeyes (5–0)
10	**22**
Head coach: Pat Fitzgerald	Head coach: Ryan Day
AP 15 · Coaches 14 · CFP 14	AP 3 · Coaches 4 · CFP 4

	1	2	3	4	Total
Northwestern	7	3	0	0	**10**
Ohio State	3	3	7	9	**22**

Date	December 19, 2020
Season	2020
Stadium	Lucas Oil Stadium
Location	Indianapolis, Indiana
MVP	Trey Sermon, RB, Ohio State
Favorite	Ohio State by 16.5[1]
National anthem	Kindergarten class
Referee	Mark Kluczynski
Halftime show	none
Attendance	3,178
United States TV coverage	
Network	Fox
Announcers	Gus Johnson (play-by-play), Joel Klatt (analyst) and Jenny Taft (sideline)
Nielsen ratings	8.03 million

Big Ten Football Championship Game
< 2019 2021 >

2020 Big Ten Conference football standings

v · t · e

Team	Conf W	Conf L	Overall W	Overall L
East Division				
No. 2 Ohio State xy$^	5	0	7	1
No. 12 Indiana	6	1	6	2
Penn State	4	5	4	5
Maryland	2	3	2	3
Rutgers	3	6	3	6
Michigan	2	4	2	4
Michigan State	2	5	2	5
West Division				
No. 10 Northwestern xy	6	1	7	2
No. 16 Iowa	6	2	6	2
Wisconsin	3	3	4	3
Minnesota	3	4	3	4
Nebraska	3	5	3	5
Purdue	2	4	2	4
Illinois	2	6	2	6

Championship: **Ohio State 22, Northwestern 10**

^ – College Football Playoff participant
$ – Conference champion
x – Division champion/co-champions
y – Championship game participant
Note: Due to COVID-19, the Big Ten suspended the season on August 11, but later decided to begin play on October 24. In addition to the title game that was played on December 19, the conference seeded all remaining teams for "championship week" games.[2]
Rankings from AP Poll.

Game summary [edit source]

2020 Big Ten Football Championship Game

at Lucas Oil Stadium • Indianapolis, Indiana

	1	2	3	4	Total
No. 14 Northwestern	7	3	0	0	**10**
No. 4 Ohio State	3	3	7	9	**22**

- **Date**: Saturday, December 19, 2020
- **Game time**: 12:18 p.m. EST
- **Game weather**: n/a (*game played indoors*)
- **Game attendance**: 3,178
- **Referee**: Mark Kluczynski
- **TV announcers (Fox)**: Gus Johnson (play-by-play), Joel Klatt (analyst) and Jenny Taft (sideline)

Game information [show]

Statistics [edit source]

Statistics	NU	OSU
First downs	19	24
Plays–yards	71–329	71–513
Rushes–yards	34–105	44–399
Passing yards	224	114
Passing: Comp–Att–Int	24–37–2	12–27–2
Time of possession	28:40	31:20

Team	Category	Player	Statistics
Northwestern	Passing	Peyton Ramsey	24/37, 224 yards, 2 INT
	Rushing	Cam Porter	16 carries, 61 yards, 1 TD
	Receiving	Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman	8 receptions, 103 yards
Ohio State	Passing	Justin Fields	12/27, 114 yards, 2 INT
	Rushing	Trey Sermon	29 carries, 331 yards, 2 TD[a]
	Receiving	Julian Fleming	4 receptions, 53 yards

See also [edit source]

- List of Big Ten Conference football champions

Notes [edit source]

a. ^ Trey Sermon's 331 rushing yards set a new Ohio State single-game school record.[5]

References [edit source]

1. ^ "ESPN Game Summary - Ohio State vs. Northwestern - December 19, 2020". *ESPN.com*. Retrieved December 19, 2020.
2. ^ Stevens, Matthew. "Big Ten To Play A "Championship Weekend" 9th Game Of 2020 Season". *Sports Illustrated*. Retrieved September 17, 2020.
3. ^ "ESPN Game Summary - Ohio State vs. Wisconsin". . Retrieved December 14, 2020.
4. ^ Rittenberg, Adam; Dinich, Heather (December 9, 2020). "Ohio St. into Big Ten finale after rule adjustment". *ESPN.com*. Retrieved December 14, 2020.
5. ^ "Sermon runs for record 331; OSU wins Big Ten". *ESPN.com*. December 19, 2020. Retrieved December 19, 2020.

External links [edit source]

- Game statistics at statbroadcast.com

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v · t · e **Northwestern Wildcats football** [show]

v · t · e **Ohio State Buckeyes football** [show]

Categories: 2020 Big Ten Conference football season | Big Ten Football Championship Game | Northwestern Wildcats football games | Ohio State Buckeyes football games | December 2020 sports events in the United States | 2020 in sports in Indiana | 2020s in Indianapolis

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